



THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Inkster
falls
short
in finale
Page 10



Vol. 118, No. 48

News you can use, news you can trust

Arbitrator rules on expired police contract

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

An arbitrator has issued a ruling in the long-overdue Romulus Command Officer Association (RCOA) contract, though few details are available yet.

Sgt. Gregg Brandemihl, the president of the RCOA, said Tuesday that the details of the four-year labor agreement will be made public within the next few weeks, after city officials and union leaders sign the contract.

"We basically have to format the arbitrator's rulings into the contract before we can say anything publicly," Brandemihl said. "There's not much more we can say right now, but we will have a contract that everyone can look at soon."

"We also don't want the city's other unions to base what they ask for on what we got, so we're going to be careful," he added.

Finance Director Debra Hoffman, the chief negotiator for the city, said she is still

awaiting a final draft of the command officer's ruling, but confirmed that command officers will receive a raise.

"Once we receive that information, we can go ahead and pay the retroactive pay to the command officers," she said. "After that, we're ready to start negotiations with the patrol officers union."

The RCOA – which has 12 members – has worked without a contract for about two years. The current labor agreement expired in 2004, and officers and the city were unable to come to an agreement about wage differentials, insurance co-pays and other issues.

Currently, sergeants are paid 14 percent more than patrolman – which is less than a typical differential between the two ranks.

A mediation session was also unsuccessful, and both sides agreed to meet with an arbitrator.

The arbitrator's ruling is binding for all parties, according to Michigan law, which specifies that police and fire unions must go

to arbitration if they cannot reach an agreement. Public Act 12 also specifies that public safety personnel cannot go on strike.

The RCOA represents lieutenants and sergeants, which earn about \$59,000 and \$65,000 per year, respectively.

Now that the command officers' contract negotiations have reached a conclusion, the city and the 50-member patrol officers union will begin discussions, said Steve Littleton, a dispatcher and trustee of the Romulus Police Officer's Association (RPOA).

"The city wanted to wait to start negotiations with us until they settle with the command officers," he said. "It's hard to say what the issues are going to be – we're going to have a meeting of our membership so they can share their concerns, and take it from there."

Unlike the command officers, the patrolman's contract expired on June 30, 2006,

See Unions, page 3

Local man arranges
Lymphomathon

Page 2

The Scene



The Fountain is
worth the effort

Page 7



Deck the Halls
is pure dreck

Page 7

Feature



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Good deeds

Students at Wick Elementary School celebrated Thanksgiving this year by helping out people who may not be in a position to enjoy a good holiday meal. Students collected 1,000 non-perishable food items for Romulus Helping Hands – an organization that helps the less fortunate in the city. Students (first row) Aneil Streve and Brent Zimmerman help parent volunteer John Cord with boxes, along with (second row) John Payne, Erin Norman, Lucas Nash and Rachel Eldridge.

Officials worry about block grant cuts

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The threat of cuts in the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for next year has city officials scratching their heads in terms of how to deal with a curtailed influx of funds.

Block grants – which are used for community projects like facade improvement program for businesses, home rehabilitation, building projects and clean-up initiatives – fund many programs in Romulus.

If federal officials cut the amount of grants received by local communities, officials will

have a decision to make: Do we keep the programs in place and use other funds to pay for them, or do we scrap the initiatives?

Debra Hoffman, Romulus finance director, said the city would have to make a determination on a case-by-case basis short-

See Grants, page 3

Shelter will take shape in 2007

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

After a three-year campaign for funds, the City of Romulus committed to breaking ground on a new animal shelter this spring.

At the city council meeting Monday night, Mayor Alan Lambert said that city staff members are prepared to begin working on a new shelter.

That was music to Councilman William Wadsworth's ears.

The councilman has organized bowling events, dinners and bingo games repeatedly to help raise the needed \$250,000 in in-kind services and funds to make the shelter a reality.

"We don't have everything that we need, but we have enough to get started," he said. "There's about \$93,000 in the account right now. I would say we have commitments from area businesses that total about \$35,000 to \$40,000 to do some of the construction on the building."

The new facility will be located along Wayne Road near the Department of Public Works building and will replace the aged structure on Goddard Road. At the new building, volunteers like Wadsworth will be able to focus more on animal

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A moving tribute Parent's death prompts son to arrange 'Lymphomathon'

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Douglas LaRowe lived through what most sons know will happen one day, but are seldom prepared for: the death of a parent.

LaRowe, 42 and a resident of Inkster, lost his father, Harland LaRowe, in February after a long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer that affects about 500,000 people in the United States each year.

A short time after his father's death, LaRowe was still grieving, but he decided to get busy. He decided to spearhead the "Lymphomathon," a 5-K walk for the Lymphoma Research Foundation, which took place this year at the Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville April 29.

"I found out that doing something that could potentially help people suffering with this disease helped me grieve," he said.

DTE Energy, LaRowe's employer, became aware their employee's activities, and announced that it would donate \$1,500 to the foundation when it named LaRowe one of the 2006

McCarthy Award winners.

The 2006 walk was the first in Michigan, and raised more than \$40,000 for the foundation largely because of LaRowe's efforts, said Mollie Michel, the national walk coordinator for the foundation.

"We did really well our first year in Michigan for a community that size, and we expect that because of people like Doug, that the walk will grow in terms of participation," she said. "We're making every effort to raise as much money as we can, and volunteers are a big part of that."

At a national level, both LaRowe and Michel would like to see the participation equal that of the many breast cancer events that take place.

"I'd really like to see this become something like the Breast Cancer Three-Day," LaRowe said. This disease is just as devastating; and there's not much that can be done about it. (Doctors) provide treatment, and they try to make you as comfortable as possible."

Corporate support is a part of making that goal a reality, Michel said.

"We don't rely solely on corpo-

rate sponsorship," she said.

So far, the Lymphoma Research Foundation it has raised \$3 million for research and education, \$1.3 million of that amount was raised this year.

Lymphoma occurs when the lymphatic system, which is made up of several important glands, begin to manufacture abnormal cells. They eventually form tumors that impair the body's ability to fight infections and diseases. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - the form of the disease that afflicted Harland LaRowe - occurs when healthy cells become malignant at an alarming rate.

LaRowe, who moved to Inkster with his wife and two children four years ago, is already gearing up for next year's walk when he's not working as a senior support specialist at the DTE Western Wayne Service Center in Belleville.

He said staying involved is an honorable way to remember his father.

"The walk is about education, and it brings awareness to a problem that affects quite a few people," he said.



The LaRowe Family gears up for the 2006 Lymphomathon. Rachel LaRowe, left, Doug LaRowe Jr. and Jeremy Fick join parents Doug and Patricia in remembering Harlan LaRowe, who died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

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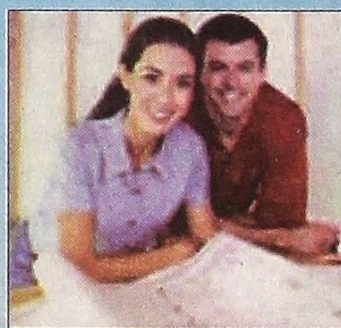
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Adding up success

Carl Weiss, the superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, spoke to the members of the Romulus Chamber of Commerce last week in the hopes of explaining the importance of mathematics in the workplace. Weiss – who has identified expanding math and science programs at all district schools as a goal – told chamber members that proving students with a solid math background will strengthen the state economic engine, and help students fit into the jobs of tomorrow. Weiss (second from left) is pictured with (left to right) chamber members Dave Goodwin, Gilbert White and chamber president Oscar Rhotan.

Shelter - There is enough money to begin construction

FROM PAGE 1

adoption.

“Right now, we just don’t have enough room to keep them all, and we have to put some of them down,” he said. “We really want to focus on finding them new homes.”

About 1,200 stray and lost animals find themselves at the shelter each year. Wadsworth said some of that can be curbed by educating people about spaying and neutering their animals, and by helping people understand that people share the community with animals.

“Education is a big part of this, and we will have a room in

the facility for that purpose,” he said.

The animal shelter fundraising effort began three years ago, when the Romulus City Council approved the creation of a special fund to collect money that can only be used for the purpose of building a shelter. No tax monies are involved in the project so far, said Wadsworth.

Getting the shelter off the ground also came after some other notable projects were addressed, Wadsworth said.

“I understood from the very beginning that other things had to be addressed first – like the construction of a senior center and the recreation center,” he

said. “Those buildings are either completed, or they’re under way. It’s the animal shelter’s turn.”

Wadsworth said the support of small businesses and local contractors are moving the new shelter from a dream to a reality.

“Most of our support has come from the community,” he said. “Smaller businesses have helped a great deal. Some big businesses have helped.”

Donations are still needed and are tax deductible. To help support the construction of a new animal shelter, send a check or money order to the Friends of the Romulus Animal Shelter, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Mich., 48174.

Grants - Cut could come sometime mid-year in 2007

FROM PAGE 1

ly after the expected federal cuts.

“We would have to decide whether we wanted to use other sources – we do have some other funds that could be used for those purposes – to pay for things we’ve used CDBG funds for,” she said. “Whether or not to do that will be recommended by the mayor, and voted on by the (city) council.”

For the 2007-08 fiscal year, Wayne County – which allocates to local municipalities from funds received from the federal govern-

ment – granted Romulus \$240,000 to fund programs, which is up \$4,000 from the previous year. The CDBG plan outline presented Monday represented \$314,400 – the combined amount of the 2007-08 allocation and program paybacks for short-term loans provided to community members to pay for property upgrades.

But cuts from the federal government – if they occur when the Legislature reconvenes in 2007 – could mean mid-year cuts that would eventually filter down to municipalities.

Councilman William Wadsworth said city officials are unaware of any proposed cuts as of yet and will deal with them when and if they occur.

“We’re just going to have to prioritize our projects if the cuts come,” he said.

“We’re going to have to make sure we find other ways to fund the projects that are most important to the welfare of the residents and decide whether we can continue to pay for the others.

“There would be no fringes – and it’s not as if there are fringes right now,” he added.

Union - Patrol negotiations temporarily on hold

FROM PAGE 1

which means they have only worked under the last agreement for five months. It is likely that, when a contract is signed will also be a four-year agreement, instead of the traditional three-year deal.

Currently, new patrol officers are hired in at about \$50,000, and more experienced patrol officers top out at \$56,000 after five years on the job. Detectives, under the

terms of that contract, are paid under the same parameters as patrolman.

Dispatchers are hired in at \$37,000 per year and top out eight years later at \$41,000, according to the present contract.

Arbitration is considered the path taken by unions and municipalities after all others have failed, and can be tough on overall morale. However, Brandemihl said it’s normal to work for a while without a contract.

“It’s more or less expected,” he said. “This (contract) came in faster than the last one – we worked for almost three years without a contract that time,” he said.

The cost of arbitration must be split equally between the city and the union.

The business agent for both the command and patrol officer’s unions is the Police Officers Association of Michigan in Redford Township.

Missing woman found deceased

The worst fears of law enforcement investigators about a missing Inkster woman were confirmed when her badly burned body was discovered at an abandoned building in Highland Park.

And now, the 44-year-old nephew of 71-year-old Lourine Lewis stands accused of killing the elderly woman in Inkster, transporting her body to Highland Park, and setting the abandoned building on fire to conceal her death.

Kenneth Taylor – who shared a home with Lewis – was charged with first-degree murder on Nov. 22 at the 22nd District Court in Inkster. His girlfriend, Mary Player, 40, was charged with one count of accessory after the fact to murder for allegedly helping Taylor cover up the crime.

Investigators believe that Lewis was killed on Nov. 12 in her home on the 27000 block of Stanford Street, said John Roach, a spokesman for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department.

A day later, fire investigators in Highland Park discovered Lewis’ body inside the building, according to Roach. He also said that items found near her body led investigators to Taylor.

“We can’t elaborate on what was found at the scene,” he said. “We don’t want that out there at this time.”

Once sheriff’s investigators confirmed the body was indeed Lewis, Inkster police officers, with the assistance of the Michigan State Police, conducted surveillance of the home on Stanford

Street for several hours, said Det. Lt. Kevin Smith.

“Patrol units drove by the home several times until we were able to locate (Taylor),” he said.

After several hours, Inkster Police Sgt. Jeffrey Smith, and officers John Munson, Jeff Czarnicki and Dan Schewe arrested Taylor for violating the conditions of his parole for a prior retail fraud conviction on Nov. 13, Smith said.

Both Inkster officers and sheriff’s deputies questioned Taylor about the incident.

Player was apprehended by sheriff’s deputies shortly thereafter, Roach said.

Detectives at the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department and the Inkster police headquarters were mum about the motive in the case. Roach did say that Lewis allowed Taylor to live with her after he was paroled earlier this year.

Police believe that an argument between Taylor and Lewis ensued at the home on Stanford Street. Investigators from the Wayne County Medical Examiner’s Office agreed that Lewis likely died as a result of blunt force trauma.

Both Taylor and Player indicated that they understood the charges facing them in court last week.

Judge Sylvia A. James ordered Taylor held without bond at the Wayne County Jail. He is being charged as a habitual offender because of his retail fraud conviction.

Player was ordered held in lieu of \$75,000 cash bond.

News in brief

Pistons make baskets at high school

Members of the Detroit Pistons basketball team will dribble into the Romulus High School gymnasium Dec. 9 to teach students more about the game and sportsmanship.

Sponsored by the Romulus Department of Recreation, the Pistons Basketball Clinic will begin at 2 p.m. The event is designed for grade school children, and basketball teams will be divided into age-appropriate sub groups for individualized instruction.

The fundamental basketball skills addressed include will ball handling, passing, shooting and rebounding.

Tickets for the event are \$25 at the door. Romulus High School is located at 9650 Wayne Road in Romulus.

For more information, call the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 941-8665.

Santa in town tomorrow

Santa will ride his sleigh into downtown Romulus tomorrow to light the official city Christmas tree.

The fun will begin at Romulus Historic Park (located on Hunt Street near the post office) at 5 p.m., when the Romulus Historical Commission and the Romulus Historical Society will open the museum and historic Kingsley house – both decorated for the season – to the public.

The Golden Griffon Stringtet will provide entertainment in the Kingsley House and refreshments will be served in the museum.

At 6 p.m., Santa will arrive at the Historic Park, where Mayor Alan R. Lambert will present him with a “key to the city” and enlist his help to light the city tree.

Afterward, the Romulus Progressive Club will open the Progressive Hall (located at 11580 Ozga Road, near Five Points) to enjoy light refreshments while Santa hears children’s wishes. The Lincoln Park Train Club, formerly the Trenton Train Club, will have train displays set up.

Photos with Santa (\$2 each) will be available. The remainder of the program is free to Romulus residents.

OPINION

A little means a lot

Throughout western Wayne County, efforts are already under way to help out the less fortunate through the holiday season.

The Westland Goodfellows got things going during the holiday weekend with their annual paper sale and other Goodfellows groups will soon hit the streets or community establishments in their yearly attempt to spread Christmas cheer.

The Salvation Army is on the march, too, with bell ringers in front of popular destinations, their tiny bells chiming out a hopeful message. Toys for Tots boxes have sprung up at several locations.

As usual, they all face a difficult task.

This year may be a particularly tough one for the various charities

throughout our communities. The anticipated need will be higher than ever as reports of a lagging economy have caused layoffs and hardships beyond what we would normally see. Even those who have been spared those difficulties may be tempted to hang on to more of their hard-earned funds, walk by a bundled-up bell ringer or avoid eye-contact with some brave soul soliciting donations in the street.

It won't be easy, but it's still possible to help out. If you have a lot to spare, remember those who have little. If you have a little to spare, remember those who have nothing. If you have nothing to spare, remember that we still live in one of the greatest giving communities in the world.

It might not seem like much to chip a few coins into the red

tins under the Salvation Army signs. Or to slip a wrinkled dollar into a cut-out milk carton hoisted by a Goodfellows volunteer, or to place a new doll or a Hotwheels set into a box earmarked for toddlers. On an individual basis, it may not be. Collectively, though, it can make a world of difference in somebody's life.

Holidays can be stressful enough for those of us who can adequately provide for our families. If you take away that one simple comfort it can turn the season into something none of us wants to face. So remember the next time you hear the crisp chiming ringing in the air, or you see someone dressed in a bright orange vest bravely standing in an intersection. Even if you only have a little to give, a little goes a long way.

Even if you only have a little to give, a little goes a long way.

The time to begin is now

When they last discussed the issue, officials in the City of Wayne seemed to lean toward a road millage with a set expiration date, rather than one that would go on, in perpetuity.

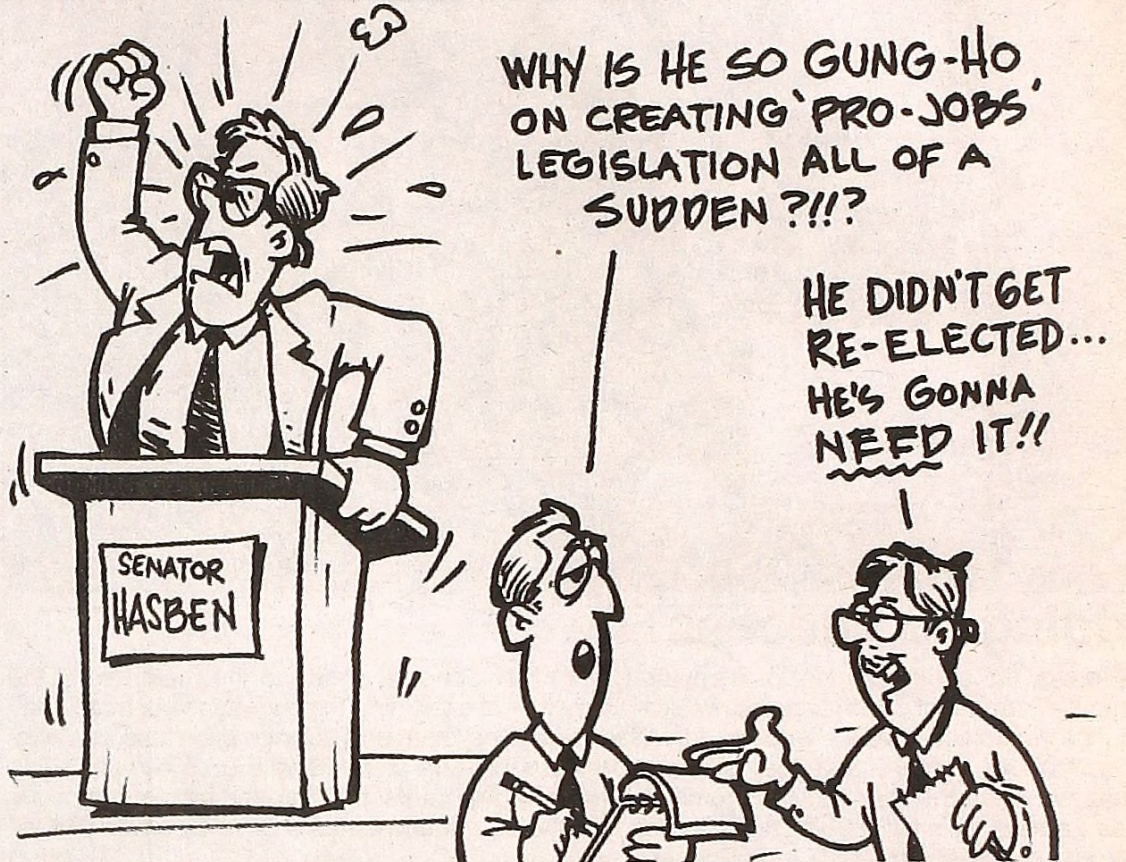
Voters will most likely have a chance to weigh in on the issue in May.

A 25-year millage makes more sense, at this point, than one with a perpetual levy. It's a tough time to

be asking anyone for a tax increase and Wayne will need all the positives it can spin out of this request in order for it to be successful.

Asking for a perpetual millage is, in some cases, asking voters for a blank check. Putting an expiration date on it allows city officials to explain to voters what exactly is needed, how much it will cost and

See **Millage**, page 5



Consider a little added value

When I first sat down with the members of the Wayne Festival Commission, we were all under the gun.

I had about two weeks to put together a program book for the annual festival and they were at the tail end of planning the event, overshadowed by the specter of budget cuts that meant the Wheelfest would be lacking compared to previous years.

They were still cheerful and optimistic as they confronted this challenge and within moments I had come to a simple conclusion: these people are going to do their best to make the community proud.

This year, the Wheelfest debate is starting even earlier than last year. Another tight budget year is looming and already the questions are coming up: is this a good way to spend city funds? It's a question that will be repeated again and again throughout the next six months—about the Wheelfest and other events and programs—because the effects of last year's budget crisis have lingered throughout the city.

Sitting through a study session last week with members of the Wheelfest and the city council, though, I'm going to stick with my original assessment. The commission members will do their best to make the community proud.

As to the question of whether the festival is a good use of city funds, I believe it is.

I could echo the comments of many city officials, talking about how it's important to get the community together, provide a fun family event and give people a chance to blow off some steam. I could echo the comments of others who point out it's odd to be celebrating or having fun as the largest taxpayer in the city is facing a bleak future—in the short term, at least—and city staff members are pondering which services they can keep and which

programs need to be cut.

I won't. That kind of talk will be plentiful enough without me chiming in, too.

I want to talk about the festival itself, and my concerns with it. To be honest, I've had mixed feelings about the event since I moved into town three years ago and visited my first one. My concerns center around the carnival, absent last year but returning this year. I'm not worried about the public safety factor but rather the expense, and I hope that's taken into account when the commission negotiates a deal with the new carnival vendor.

I try not to be a cheapskate, and I make decent money, but recent incarnations of the carnival had me wincing when I reached for my wallet. Absent any kind of wristband that allows unlimited access, the cost of those rides added up in a hurry. I had it figured out, as I watched my son, Henry, float in a circle on one of the rides, that it came to about a dollar a minute. By the time he had taken a second trip around on the little zoo train and headed for the smaller rollercoaster, I started to wonder if it would be cheaper to pack up the whole famn damily and head to Cedar Point.

Wouldn't they make more money if they charged a more modest fee for an all-day wristband, attracting more riders and leaving more money for them to spend on concessions? I think they would and many of us would be spared the embarrassment of explaining to our children how their ride time was gone after 10 minutes.

To be successful, the Wheelfest has to be operated like a business. That's a concept that's true of any festival, anywhere. And for any business to be successful, it has to offer value as well as service. I hope the carnival that comes back is one we can all enjoy.

Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

The power of the written word

I write everything down.

What I have to do for the day, my shopping lists, plans for the day/week/weekend, to remember to take this to this place at this time on this day. Whatever it may be; I write it down.

It might be somewhat compulsive, but it helps to keep me organized, more together and—for the most part—in the right mind frame. Some (I'm referring to my family) even think it's a little weird at times, but I don't care because I know what I'm doing (because I wrote it down).

I'm bringing this up because of a recent debacle in the City of Belleville. Instead of the usual process in the appointments to boards and commissions that typically takes only a few minutes,

this most recent one took much longer.

Appointments were scheduled to be approved for the Cemetery Advisory Committee, the Downtown Development Authority and the Planning Commission. One was not acted on, and the others were approved, expect for one spot on the Planning Commission.

In the past, the applications of each candidate for the position have been in the city council meeting packets for the members and the public, but this time they weren't. That's when the situa-

See **Notes**, page 5

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King's Court

by Andrea King

Millage

FROM PAGE 4

how it will be funded. It allows them to give more details of the plan and not rely on the concept that, when this millage is expired, there will still be other work that is needed and other funds needed for that.

Even so, there will be plenty of educating that needs to take place and the time is growing short to do it. That might seem like an odd statement, considering that it comes about five months before the proposed date of the vote, but the experts always tell municipalities that the more time they have to get the information to the public, the better.

An ideal timetable is about six months, which means the city is a little behind, already.

As to the question of why the city would ask for a tax increase to fund roadwork at a

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*The work needs to be done
and they need to figure
out some way to fund it.*

time when many residents are merely worried about their jobs, their pensions and their futures, the answer is relatively simple. They don't have a choice. The work needs to be done and they need to figure out some way to fund it. Before that can happen they need to hear from the residents and that's what the May vote will tell them: what is important and how much they're willing to pay.

City leaders are wisely nervous about the impending tax request. It's never easy to ask for such a thing and, the last time it was on the ballot it was only approved by 10 votes—and times were a little better back then.

Notes

FROM PAGE 4

tion took a turn for the worse.

Officials were unclear about the applicants' backgrounds, residency and other information so they were interviewed in front of council. When it came to the applicant for the Planning Commission though, the debate wasn't about whether or not Jesse Marcotte was qualified for the position, but rather his residency.

He has only been a resident of the city for six months and officials questioned the requirement. Instead of approving Marcotte to the spot, board members approved a request for an opinion from the city attorney on the matter.

Turns out the city code requires the

planning commissioners to have at least one year of residency immediately prior to the appointment.

While I'm chalking this up to a lack of communication and paperwork on the part of city officials, take notes Belleville, it seems to work for me.

Not only was I embarrassed for the city, but I also felt bad that Jesse Marcotte had to stand up for an hour during this meeting as public officials hashed out the issue.

The confusion—officials said—was because the board appointment list was not updated from the 2002 revision.

Last week, Councilmember Lori Hecksel brought up the issue of updating the application process. She called the current system outdated and suggested looking into things to help make it more efficient.

It was duly noted.

School district seeking distinguished graduates

The Van Buren Public School District is looking for nominations for the Distinguished Graduates Hall of Fame program.

The program was enacted by the board of education in 1998 in an effort to annually recognize five graduates from Belleville High School who have brought distinction to the community.

Nominees must have graduated from Belleville High School prior to 1997. Other requirements include: distinguished themselves in their chosen profession through outstanding individual performance, leadership or recognized success in a particular

field of work; and/or contributed or volunteered leadership, time, effort and resources to benefit the greater Belleville area or other communities.

For nominations please contact Van Buren Public Schools Communications Department at (734) 697-9123 ext. 224 or by mail to: Nomination-Distinguished Graduate Program Communications Department, Van Buren Public Schools, 555 West Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111.

The deadline for entries is Jan. 12. Winners will be honored at the Belleville High School National Honor Society induction in May.

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC WORKSHOP VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY SIGN ORDINANCE UPDATE

The City of Romulus invites you to attend a public workshop to participate in a visual preference survey of signs within the community. The results of this survey will be used in updating the City's Sign Ordinance.

The public workshop will be held on Monday, December 4, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, December 4, 2006, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

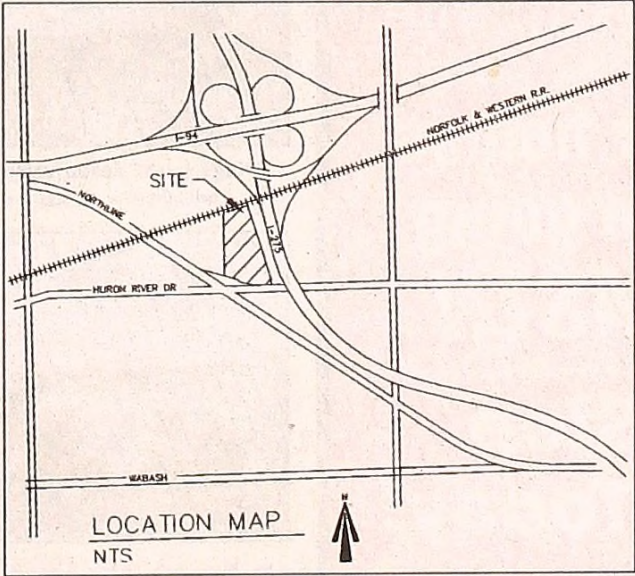
Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 30, 2006

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED SPECIAL LAND USES BLUE RIBBON CONTRACTING

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2006, for the purpose of considering a Special Land Use proposal. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to establish a landscape contractor's yard and an asphalt contractor's yard located on a 16.51+- acre parcel on the north side of Huron River Drive between Northline Road and I-275. DP#'s 82-80-073-01-0175-002 and 82-80-073-01-0176-002. The parcel is zoned M-1, Light Industrial District. These types of facilities are permitted in the M-1, Light Industrial District, subject to Special Land Use Approval. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, December 18, 2006, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 30, 2006

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Christian youth group opens new gift shop

Scott Spielman
Editor

What started out as a new way to minister to youth has grown into something more—and crossed some boundaries in the process.

STATIC Youth, LLC started out as youth group based at St. Theodore's Catholic Church in Westland. The founders of that program have opened a new shop in downtown Plymouth—Static Gifts at 875 Wing St.

"I can't tell you how excited we are in being able to provide for the larger community this important ministry," said Paul Sposite, one of the partners in the store and the founder of STAT-IC.

The youth group is anything but static, ironically enough. The name stands for Students Taking Action Together in Christ. It's geared toward middle school students and seeks to provide positive activities that help them grow as individuals, as well as in the faith.

The Youth Group

The group gets together at the church every week and they learn a variety of lessons, from the spiritual to those designed to help them make positive decisions in their lives.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Michael Gluth, one of the members of the club. "We always do special things."

On any day at a STATIC gathering, teachers may talk about how to stop bullying, give sign language tips or present lectures on how to say no to alcohol or drugs.

"You learn a lot of things about your faith," added Hanna Perkins, another member. "You learn that when you're helping someone, you're also doing acts of faith."

Whatever the lesson of the day is, it's always backed up with fun activities, which is another positive of the program, according to Julie Demaree, another STATIC student.

"You can understand things better if its put into something fun," she said.

The group is the brainchild of Sposite, but was approved by church leaders, including Theresa Lisiecki, the director of religious education at St. Theodore's. Another benefit is that it is open to anyone.

"Everyone is welcome," said Christian Oyson, who's been with the organization since it was founded.

An open, diverse group can normally lead to some difficult social issues—particularly from a group of youngsters in their early teens—but that's not the case with the STATIC group, the students said.

"I just like that we can all get together in one place and not be judged by what we think," said



Paul Sposite and Carol Perkins have expanded their STATIC concept to include a gift shop in downtown Plymouth.

Kaitlyn Gluth. "All of our ideas come together."

It has impressed their parents, too.

"It's time worth spending on a Sunday," said Raymond Oyson, whose daughter, Kathleen, also takes part. "My kids look forward to going there instead of spending time watching television."

The store

Static Gifts is located on Wing Street between Main and Harvey streets downtown. It opened last week, but has a formal grand

opening ceremony scheduled for Saturday Dec. 2.

Sposite said the store tries to provide for a variety of needs, featuring everything from general gifts and candles to religious items like rosaries, Bibles, DVDs and CDs as well as fiction and non-fiction books.

He and his sister, Carol Perkins, wanted a downtown store when they shopped around for locations with their business partners, Sue and Steve Demaree.

"Static is a concept we wanted to grow and expand," Sposite said. "This was kind of natural."

The store came together in a relatively short time—they only found the space a few months ago—but at an opportune time for Perkins, who is on medical leave from her job in the auto industry and isn't sure she'll have a job to go back to.

"This happened for a reason," she said. "We have so much going on here now that I'm able to do a lot more."

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THE SCENE

Struggle to understand is theme of THE FOUNTAIN

Those who have seen a Darren Aronofsky film already know that his ideas and concepts are hard to grasp and are definitely not stuffed with happy yarns and fairytale endings.

That doesn't make him a bad filmmaker, though. On the contrary, it makes him a smart one. He provides audiences, like it or not, with stories they will actually have to think about long after the lights come back on.

Although his movies may initially be as hard to digest as Aunt Kay's holiday stuffing, Aronofsky provides layer after layer covering the truth or heart of his tale,

In 1998 he garnered acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival for his black-and-white debut *Pi*, which is about a mathematics genius who studies the numerical patterns of the stock market in order to find the meaning of life. He followed up in 2000 with *Requiem for a Dream*, based on the fiction of Hubert Selba Jr., where he explored the empty lives of a mother addicted to diet pills and her son who is addicted to heroin. Both are good films but you might need to pack an extra Zolof or two.

The Fountain, released over the long holiday weekend, is another powerful character profile. This time it isn't as so much depressing as it is sad. Here, Aronofsky tackles the topics of

life, love, death and the eternal struggle to understand them all.

The plot revolves around Thomas/Tommy/Tom Creo, played by the talented Hugh Jackman, as he struggles in three separate but parallel stories that span more than a 1,000 years to save the woman he loves—his wife, Isabel, portrayed by an equally talented Rachel Weisz.

Don't be fooled. *The Fountain* is actually three variations of just one story revolving around loss.

On the surface, Tommy is a modern-day scientist desperately seeking a cure for the cancer that is killing his beloved Isabel. Along the way he develops a serum that, in monkeys, reverses aging but doesn't shrink the inoperable tumor similar to his wife's.

Tom takes on a conquistador character in the book Isabel is writing—a book that Tom must write the final chapter—coincidentally titled *The Fountain*.

The book takes place in 16th century Spain where Thomas is commissioned by the Queen (Isabel), who is surrounded by another cancer in the form of the Spanish Inquisitor, to find the Fountain of Youth (also referred to as the Tree of Life)—the entity believed to grant eternal life to those that drink of it.

In the third intertwined passage, Tom is a 26th century astronaut (as explained on the movie's web page) traveling through deep space, trying to grasp the mysteries that have consumed him. I guess we are to assume he took his own wonder drug to live that long. That might be too farfetched. The 26th century Tom might be better understood as Tommy's internal or eternal self finally coming to terms with the loss of his wife.

No matter which way the parts are dissected the movie as a whole still has the same meaning and that's what makes it a worthwhile experience. No matter how one might look at it they will get some fulfillment.

I often rag on Hollywood for not providing good filmmaking anymore. However, *The Fountain*, as strange as it seems at times, makes perfect sense. Aronofsky is a talented director who also receives a producing credit and a writing credit along with Ari Handel. The result is a thought-provoking and beautifully directed piece of work. And just because there's a little bit of exploring to do when it's over doesn't mean it's a bad thing.

So, for those who haven't already seen an Aronofsky film...try *The Fountain*.



Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Deck the Halls is pure dreck

The best two words to sum up the latest 'meaning of Christmas' holiday film, *Deck the Halls*?

Bah humbug. When the chance to see this film arose, I was excited. I enjoy Christmas movies, Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito are always fun, and with my Christmas shopping done, I had

some free time. Most of the reviews I saw ripped it apart, but I never agree with the critics anyway so that wasn't a problem.

OK, so the premise was a little hokey. Optometrist and self-proclaimed Christmas guru Steve Finch (Broderick) is a VIP in his Massachusetts hometown because of his involvement in the

annual town Winterfest. Then one night, his obsessively tradition-focused holiday activities, which are designed around a timeline as coordinated as a military maneuver, take a hit. Buddy Hall (DeVito) and his family move in next door. DeVito, a car salesman by trade, could sell shoes to a snake but he's still searching for something that will make him special. In a fit of brilliance, Hall decides that he is going to deck his new home out in so many holiday lights that it will be visible from space. However, the growing number of lights, visitors, and noise interfere with Finch's Norman Rockwell-style holiday plans. That means war.

There are a lot of movies that have stupid premises that overcome them by ratcheting up the entertainment value—think Monty Python and at least some of the National Lampoon movies. *Deck the Halls* doesn't make the cut. It tries to be funny, but the humor falls flat every time. It also attempts to be a feel good, 'warm



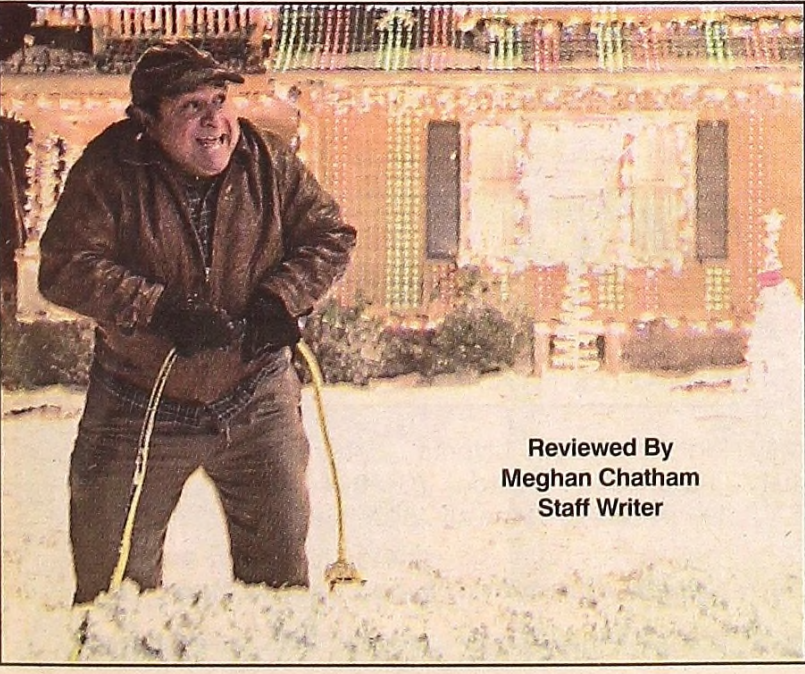
and fuzzy' Christmas classic akin to *A Christmas Carol* but it ends up as a film that could trigger the gag reflex. I've seen elementary school productions that translate the *It's a Wonderful Life* feeling better than this. Rated PG, this is a sorry example of a family film.

Hall's umm, extroverted, wife Tia (Kristin Chenoweth) and their twin 15-year-old daughters who would do Hugh Hefner proud and Finch's two neurotic children are easily the most interesting characters in the film—and that's not saying much. Finch's wife, Kelly, was allegedly played by Kristin Davis (*Sex in the City*) but given her blank expressions, she seemed more like one of the less active animatronic robots in the Hall of Presidents at Walt Disney World.

The film was thought provok-

ing though. Unfortunately, the main thought it provoked was how desperately I wanted to walk out of the theater and not have to see the film through to the pathetic end. I also had plenty of time to wonder if my watch battery was dying. After all, the minute hand didn't seem to be moving.

My watch was fine, as it turns out. It was the film that limped along desperately. It was slow, boring, and even when it lifted gags from better made films—which was often—it wasn't funny. Oh, and I mustn't forget predictable. Although, who would guess that there would be problems with the sacred town Christmas tree or that really long extension cords would be needed



Reviewed By
Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

THE SCENE

Greenfield Village offers 'Holiday Nights'

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

In upcoming weeks, visitors to Greenfield Village will be able to take a step back in time into an old fashioned Christmas.

Holiday Nights, which offers residents a glimpse of how the holiday season was celebrated in the past, will begin next weekend.

"This will be our fifth season," said Jim Johnson, senior manager of creative programs at the Henry Ford. "There's nothing else like it in the area."

According to Johnson, visiting the village during the holidays is like stepping into a Christmas card. Horse-drawn carriages and Model T automobiles will transport patrons past homes and businesses of the past all decked out in their holiday finest as bands of actors and musicians in period attire roam the lantern-lit streets and perform on four stages.

"There's music everywhere," he said.

It's more than simply a nostalgic glimpse of American history,

”
This will be our fifth season.
There's nothing else like it in the area.
Jim Johnson

though. Visitors will also be able to see firsthand how holiday traditions evolved through the glimpses of the past visible in each of the homes and businesses.

"People like going through the homes," said Johnson.

What they see may be surprising though, he said. For instance, homeowners with puritanical beliefs would not have celebrated the holidays so homes built in that style will show no overt signs of the holiday. Inside, they are decorated to simply reflect winter life in that region.

That changed as the years passed. Until about the Civil War, Johnson said, Christmas basically served as a time for adults—particularly young men—to party in the streets. These celebrations, he said, that looked more like "Times Square on New

Years Eve" than the stereotypical old-fashioned Christmas. In honor of those beliefs, village visitors will find more activities "in the streets" as well as a band of mummers winding their way through the town. In return for refreshments, the impromptu musicians traditionally made boisterous progress through a town, singing, playing music, and generally making noise.

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, however, the focus of Christmas merriment became more centered on the family, children, and home. Johnson said that most of the program is focused on this period, with decorations and activities developed as the holiday changed.

In addition to the changing role of Christmas in the homes, the events will also feature cos-

tumed re-enactors speaking out about what life was like for the soldiers on the warfront during the Civil War and World War II.

There will also be an outdoor ice skating rink, complete with free 'loaner' skates open to visitors. Bonfires will be lit throughout the village to warm visitors and sing-a-longs will be common, Johnson said.

"We have a lot of winter games and sports in the (village) green," he said.

An enormous gingerbread house display will be available, too. Artisans will also be busy displaying how they craft items such as glass candy canes while holiday shops sell Christmas gifts of yesteryear. The evenings will end with a colorful fireworks display.

To better enjoy the event, Johnson encouraged to dress for the weather as many of the activities are outdoors and to wear comfortable shoes.

The Holiday Nights program will be offered from 6:30-10 p.m. on Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-17, and 19-23. Tickets are \$12.75 for adult members, \$8 for child members, \$15

for non-member adults, and \$10 for non-member children. Greenfield Village, part of the Henry Ford, is located at 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, south of Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. Due to the popularity of the program, advance ticket registration is strongly recommended. For more information, call the Henry Ford at (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.com.

Deck

FROM PAGE 7

to power the light show?

Now, I feel almost as though I was robbed. That's two hours of my life I could have found a much more entertaining way to squander. Don't make my mis-

take. Rent *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Scrooged*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, or some other classic holiday film or go to the re-release of *The Polar*

Express to get in the spirit of the season. Otherwise, beware: viewers may start to channel Ebenezer Scrooge's pre-'other-worldly visitors' attitude.

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12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

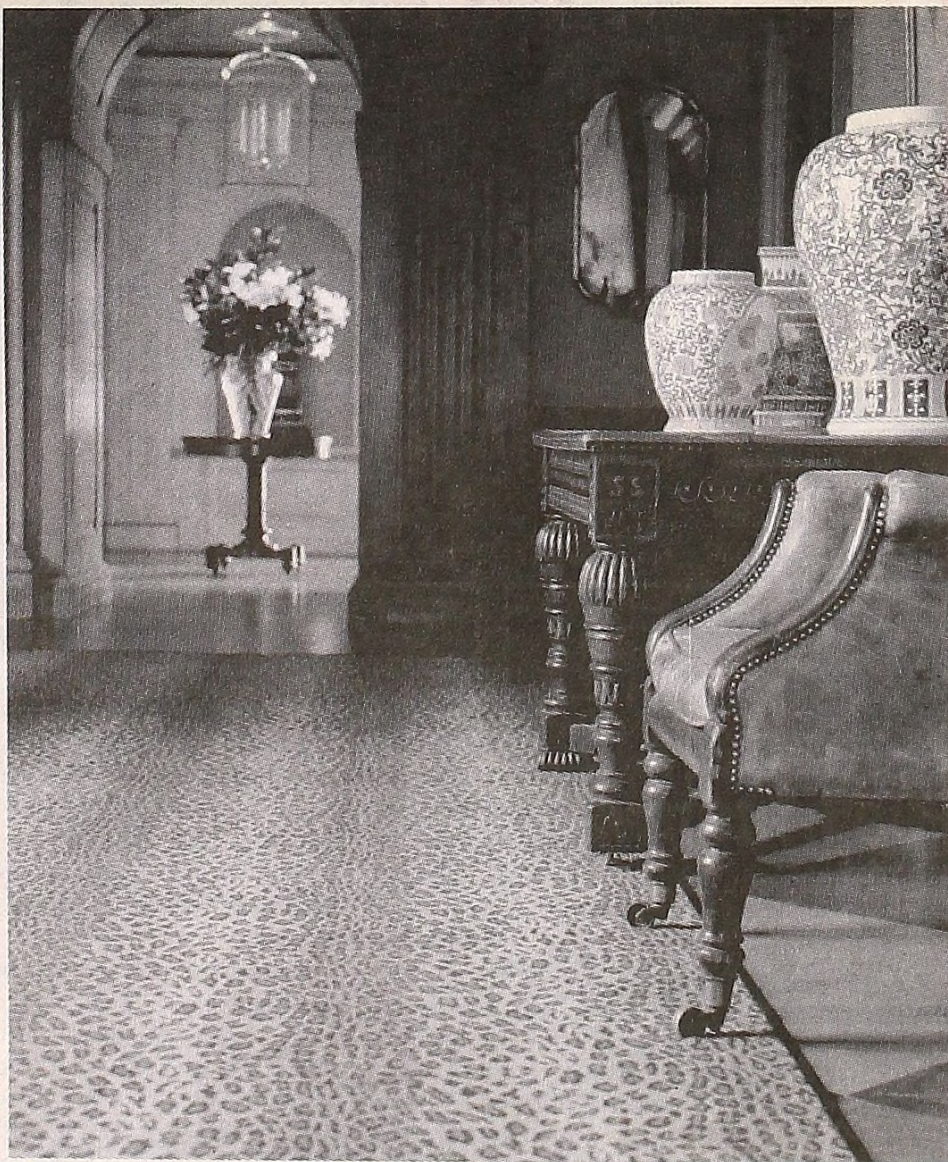
DECK THE HALLS (PG) 11:05, 1:10, 3:15,
5:20, 7:25, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

DEJA VU (PG-13)
11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
HAPPY FEET (PG) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
FRI/SAT LS 11:20

CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)
12:40, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25

SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)
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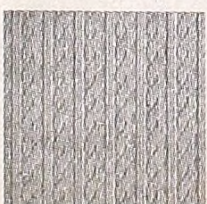


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Game on

Local college offers classes in video game development, animation

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The hours spent in front of the PlayStation or X-box may not have been altogether wasted for some younger, more computer savvy students.

That's because there is a growing market for computer game development and animation in one of the fastest growing career fields today.

In response to that need, Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus is now offering several new programs to help jump start the careers of budding game designers and animators.

According to Campus President Patrick McNally, the computer game design and animation program is the first of the new programs to start Jan. 16. It will focus on the computer design field, graphic components and the most popular areas—art, writing and programming.

"Video gaming has gone well beyond the Playstation, X-Box and other gaming systems. It's branching out," he said. "This is one of the programs that came up on a regular basis."

The computer game design and animation program will be geared toward students who either have a background in the industry or a passion for gaming, officials said.

"People with writing, artistic and programming capabilities are the top candidates for this," McNally said. "It will benefit students with an entry level into jobs related to the field. We're also looking to partner with the College for Creative Studies so if students want to go ahead with a bachelors degree with this as their career choice, they can."

The computer game design and animation program will only be offered at the western campus, but if the demand increases it could also be expanded to other campus locations. A one-year college certificate or an Associate of Applied Science Degree will be available.

"This is a popular certificate right now and we're offering both to our students and dually enrolled high school students," said Debraha Watson, associate vice chancellor of instruction and educational affairs. "The newer generation was raised on computers. This is a job where there's a need out there, plus the

program helps with computer literacy and math skills, too."

Other new course offerings at the western campus include: a new forensic photography program, a revitalized computer information system and business information technology program, a remodeled heavy equipment maintenance technology and diesel engineering program, and a revitalized heating ventilation and air conditioning program.

All programs will help with the continued expansion at the western campus, according to McNally.

"It fits well and we're excited about that," he said. "We're anxious to let people know we're here to stay."

It also shows in their student enrollment. The western campus is the fastest growing district in all 28 community colleges in Michigan. In the 2003 fall semester, the student enrollment was about 800 students, which has now grown to more than 3,000 students in Fall 2006.

"WCCCD tries to stay cutting edge as far as curriculum development and meeting the needs of the workforce goes so we're developing programs to do that," said Watson.

Belleville financial audit almost complete

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The 2004-2005 Belleville audit is complete, and the financial reporting of the city is nearly up to date, officials said.

Auditors from Plante & Moran are in their fourth week of the process and have completed the 2005 audit and are ready to prepare the financial statement.

Councilmembers approved a proposal to complete the work in preparation for the annual audit by accountants from Allan C. Young and Associates.

"They (Allan C. Young and Associates) will come in and do a straight audit while we prepare the paperwork, answer all audit questions and prepare the financial statements," said Carl Johnson, of Plante & Moran. "This should all be complete by Dec. 31."

Johnson said the city is six months behind, but is current as far as filing with state reporting requirement.

Belleville has been without a treasurer for some time causing incomplete audits and a failure of timely bill payments by the city. The situation has

caused overt irritation and concern among city officials.

"There's a huge sense of frustration for the books and the status of it," said Councilmember Walter Mears.

"We're waiting to pay bills, waiting to do this and do that and I thank Plante & Moran for doing this," said Councilmember Lori Hecksel.

During the audit process, Plante & Moran examiners have found bank reconciliations for the main operating accounts—the general fund, major street funds, trust payroll and downtown development accounts—that were not completed for any month during the entire year. They also discovered state money was withheld because of the city not filing required annual reports. Bills were paid, but not all necessary wire transfers had been made, they said.

Also, given the significant turnover in the treasurer's office, files were disorganized making it a challenge to locate information, according to auditors.

"We set a lot of high priority goals for the first of the year," Hecksel said. "Hopefully it will make our jobs easier and make us more effective."

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SPORTS

Inkster falls short in finale

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Inkster Vikings' long journey through uncharted waters came to an end on Friday.

They set a course to Ford Field and made it, taking part in the team's first state championship game at Ford Field. The Vikings, who were so dominant throughout the season, played their hearts out against Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central, the No. 1 ranked team in Division 6, but came up just short in the championship game.

The Vikings recovered from a 14-point deficit in the first half, but the Panthers still hung on for a 28-14 victory.

It came down to a battle of the wills and it was Saginaw's defense that won that fight. The Panthers stymied the potent running attack of Inkster, forcing the Vikings to rely on the arm of junior quarterback Aaron Shavers—usually not a bad thing. However, some tricky coverage on Saginaw's part led to two interceptions. The first ended a potential Inkster scoring drive. Kenji Shaltry made a spectacular diving play to intercept Shavers' pass on the Panthers' 4.

Saginaw then drove 96 yards on 13 plays. The series was capped off with a 9-yard run by Nick Birnbaum to put the game away, 28-14, with 7:38 left in the game.

Andrew Shooltz nabbed the second interception with about 2:08 left on the clock. The turnover gave the Panthers the opportunity to run out the clock.

"We had to rely solely on passing the ball," said Inkster Coach Greg Carter. "Any time you get one dimensional you're going to have problems winning a game against a good team."

"I thought we were able to

throw the ball effectively," he added. "They created some problems; they disguised some of their coverages. I think their defensive line is probably better than any defensive line we played since early in the year. I don't think we stopped the run nearly as effectively as they did. They took us out of what we wanted to do and we have to give them credit for that."

Shavers was the rock for Inkster. He led the team in rushing with 134 yards on 17 carries and scored once on the ground and once through the air. He scrambled, he threw, he threw while scrambling. He did it all.

"It was fun even, though I was running for my life," he said. "I was just trying to make plays."

Shavers led the team to a second-quarter comeback, too.

He capped off a 47-yard drive with a seven-yard jaunt to the end zone, putting Inkster on the board, 14-6, with about 3:28 left in the second frame. He ran for 29 yards and threw a 15-yard pass to Tim Hogue in the process.

Derrick Coker intercepted Bradley Sonntag's pass on Saginaw's next possession. That set up Inkster's best drive of the game—a nine-play, 68-yard series. Shavers hit Renty Rollins with a five-yard pass for a score and then hit Coker for the two-point conversion, knotting the game at 14 with six seconds left in the half.

Birnbaum scored on a three-yard run in the first and Tim Ryan snagged a six-yard pass from Sonntag in the second to put the Panther's up 14-0.

"We had some opportunities in the passing game," Carter said. "Shavers played a great game. He ran around a lot for his life and he sold out and that's all you can ask. I think all my guys played as hard as they could. We didn't necessarily play all that well but, again,



Inkster's senior running back/wide receiver Anre' Goree attempts a run to the outside in the Vikings first state championship appearance on Friday at Ford Field in Detroit. The ground game proved ineffective against Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central's defense in the 28-14 loss.

Saginaw Nouvel is a good team and we knew coming in that we would have to play one of our better games to beat them."

Nouvel came out fired up in the third. On its second possession of the new half, Sonntag connected with Nick Awrey for a 30-yard score and a 21-14 lead.

"I think we lost a lot of momentum there in the second quarter and we needed to make some adjustments at half time and maybe make a large mental adjustment because they had all of their momentum going into halftime," said Nouvel Coach Michael Boyd. "This is a pretty resilient team we have here, loaded with seniors, and I think they made a decision at half time to come out and regroup and get things back in our favor—and that's exactly what we did."

Birnbaum, a senior, led Saginaw with 87 rushing yards and 56 receiving yards. Sonntag, another senior, was 8-for-16 for 133 yards passing.

This was Nouvel's first championship win.

"You work and try to figure out what you have to do to get it done but if you ask any member of my staff they would say that they're just happy for the kids," Boyd said. "That's what it means to our program—the same kids that work their butt off in winter and

in the summer and do everything that you ask of them get rewarded. That's what it's all about."

Inkster's defense was led by Dominique Ware, who racked up nine tackles (eight solo) on the day. He also forced a fumble that was recovered by Vincent Jones. Josh Howard and Coker had interceptions for Inkster.

Although the Vikings didn't win, it was a great accomplishment to make it to the finale. Two years ago the football team was just 1-8. When Carter took over he immediately turned the program around, winning a district championship and making it to the regional championship before getting beat last year. Nobody expected to see Inkster in the championship game this year.

"We came into the season with high expectations," Carter said. "We knew we were going to be flying under the radar. Nobody really expected a lot out of us, but we knew we had good players and we had a nice run last year. The expectations were to make it here. We accomplished that. We just fell short in winning the championship game. Next year we have to understand that people are going to look for Inkster to play quality football."

Inkster only loses seven seniors off of the roster in June. Jones, a linebacker; Joe Agee, a

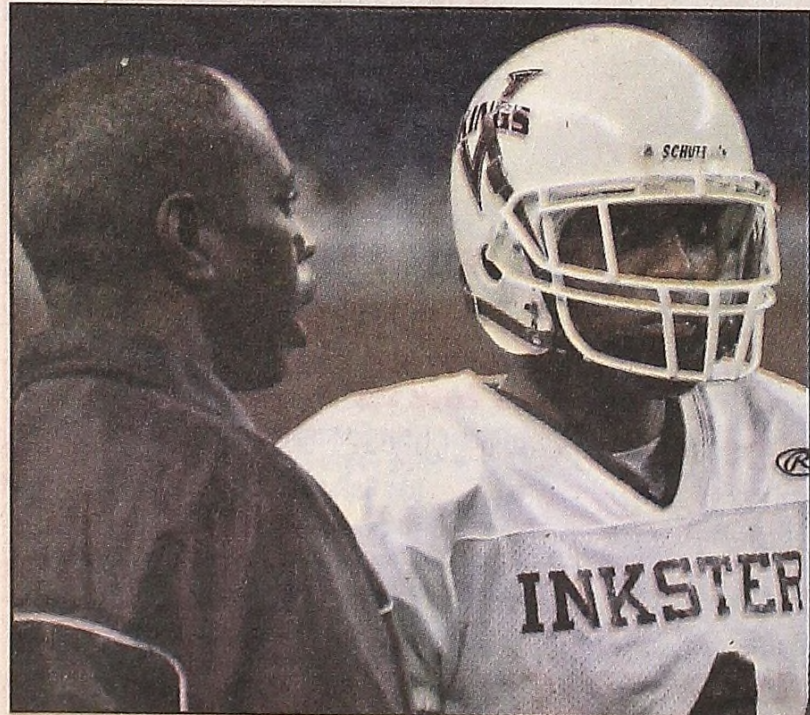
safety/linebacker; Anre' Goree, a running back, wide receiver and defensive back Phillip Moore at defensive back; starting running back Hogue; J.J. Snelling, a receiver and kicker; and defensive end Michael Bailey will all graduate.

The Vikings will have 23 very experienced juniors returning including Shavers, Howard, Javier Reed, Rollins and Coker—not to mention six sophomores and two freshmen that gained invaluable experience this year.

It's not out of the question that Inkster could find itself back at Ford Field next year, too.

"It's never promised to you but we're going to work hard and get stronger," Carter said. "It was obvious today that their defensive line and linebackers were stronger than our guys as a whole. Our school has grown so I don't know what division we will be in next year, but we definitely need to get a lot stronger."

"This gave our underclassmen five additional weeks to practice and get better for next year," he added. "We're trying to build a program so anytime you can continue your season and play some meaningful games it only helps you as a player. The future is bright and Inkster is a diamond in the rough. We're going to try and make this even better."



Inkster Coach Greg Carter consults quarterback Aaron Shavers during the second half of the state Championship game.



Junior quarterback Aaron Shavers led the team with 134 rushing yards in the state finale. He scored a rushing touchdown and a throw for a score to tie the game, 14-14, in the second quarter.

SPORTS

Going the extra 'Myles'

Romulus track star to run for Howard

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Tamila Myles has made tremendous strides in her track career during the past two years at Romulus High School.

She will start her third year—her senior season—in the spring, but has already made a name for herself on and off the track.

Myles is headed to Washington D.C. next fall, where she will race for the highly respected and reputable Howard University—one of the biggest historic black colleges in the nation. She recently signed her letter of intent to join the prestigious school's growing track team on a full scholarship.

It is quite an accomplishment since the Lady Eagle didn't start track until the tenth grade.

"It feels kind of unreal right now," Myles said. "My hand was shaking while I was signing. I'm excited and nervous. I don't know what to think."

Myles is a middle-distance runner and sprinter, specializing in the half-mile. She also runs the 400-meter and is a key component on Romulus' 4x400-meter relay team and her AAU track club the Michigan Accelerators.

She didn't start with track. Her short

athletic career began on the soccer field—she only played one year, but earned MVP honors. After that she wanted something that would help in the 'long run' and it looks like she found it.

"I decided to do a sport that would help me with me endurance and I would have fun doing," she said. "I wanted a sport that would help to get me to college. I didn't think

track was going to help me as much as it has. I'm just going along for the ride now."

It hasn't been an easy jog around the block to get to this point in her life, though. Her life growing up in Inkster was fairly normal until her mother, Jalila, got sick and spent long bouts in the hospital during Tamila's middle school years. She was forced to bounce between Inkster and Taylor at different family members' homes. She finally landed at her aunt's in Romulus in time to start her freshman year. There she found some stability—and eventually, track—in her sophomore year with Coach Wade Cook.

She also started to run with the Coach James Hall and his Accelerators in her junior campaign. All of it has helped her

*My hand was shaking
while I was signing.
I'm excited and nervous.
I don't know what to think.*

Tamila Myles

See Myles, page 13



Romulus runner Tamila Myles (center) will run track at Howard University on a full scholarship. Her mother, Jalila Myles (left); Accelerator Track Club Coach, James Hall (far left); Romulus High Track Coach, Wade Cook (right); Athletic Director Mark Woodson (back, left); and Assistant Principle Don Foley were on hand to show their support.



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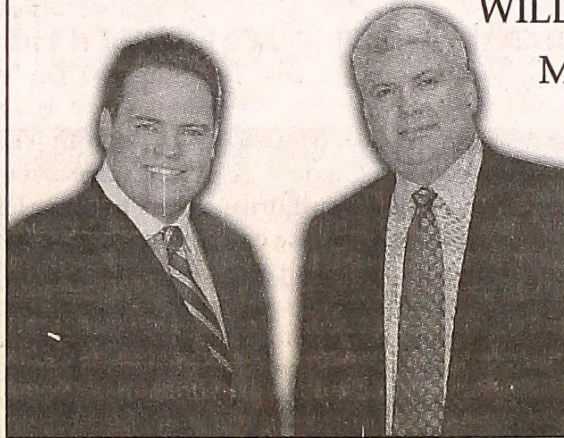
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SPORTS

Myles - Romulus runner heads to prestigious Howard University on track scholarship

FROM PAGE 11

find strength and direction.

"Coach Cook is great," she said. "He's from where I am and Coach Hall and Mr. (Mark) Woodson (Romulus' athletic Director) are all from Inkster. They know my background and actually grew up with some of my older family members. So they know my situation and some of the struggles that I'm going through."

"Sticking with track has helped me through a lot of different things," she added. "It has been the most stable thing in my life and it has helped me the most. The coaches are like father figures to me and I do what they tell me because I

know in the long run it will help me."

Her ability to overcome obstacles has made her a stronger person, student and athlete.

"She's just a tremendous warrior," Hall said. "That's the best way to describe her. She's never out of a race and is never out of anything she puts her mind to. She's a tremendous student. She'll bring to Howard character, discipline, and strength. She's ready to go. She's a self-reliant athlete. She won't have to be prodded to do the work—athletic or academically."

He said he was a little surprised with the Howard as her choice because several Big Ten and Big East schools were in the

hunt for her.

"She's strong, dedicated and determined," Cook said. "She's knows what she wants and never has a problem figuring out what she wants to do—she's a survivor. She knew all the time that she wanted to go to Howard."

"She's going to be a great addition to the team," he added. "We're proud of her and happy. The credit should go out to her parents for being committed and helping her along the way and the school and the staff and her peers. I think everybody did a great job helping because it takes us all to make certain decisions and to be successful."

Myles looked into the medical program and liked what she

saw along with other aspects of the university, which helped with the decision.

"I really liked the history behind Howard," she said. "It's the biggest historical black college in the country, for one. I've always been interested in historical black colleges. It's a prestigious school. I looked into the college of medicine and I really liked it."

There she will join former Romulus teammate and friend Landria Buckley, who signed with the school a year ago.

No matter where she runs—or with whom—it all comes down to one thing—her love of the sport, the one thing not said often enough by student-athletes moving up the next level.

"I love track," she said. "It has helped with so much in life, especially with discipline. So I'm pretty sure I won't have too much of a problem sticking with it as long as I'm having fun."

"I'm just seeing where it takes me," she said. "It got me through high school and it will get me through college. I really think, depending on how I do in college, I might want to go professional."

She said that she couldn't have made it this far without the support of loved ones.

"I want to thank my mom for always being there for me," she said. "Even when she couldn't be there she was still there for me. She doesn't know that."

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1. Obituaries

COLLINS, Harold Vernon, age 65, of Westland, died November 20, 2006 at Garden City Hospital. He had been seriously ill for 3 weeks. He was born June 13, 1941 in Paintsville, Kentucky, the son of Conrad and Gladys Mae (Wells) Collins. He was married to Judy Perry in August of 1963. For more than twenty years he was employed by Clark Oil and managed several service stations in the downriver area. He enjoyed coin collecting and playing his guitar and banjo. For the last twelve years he had made his home with Lisa Dukes. He is survived by two sons: Jeffrey of Monroe and Timothy of Ypsilanti; three brothers: Christopher Columbus (Betty) of Taylor, Jesse (Jewell) of Van Lear, KY, and Colvert (Peggy) of Greenup, KY; a sister: Verdine Mollette of Milan; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held Nov. 25, officiated by Mr. Collins nephew, Doug Mollette. Interment was at Highland Memorial Park in Staffordsville, KY. Memorial donations may be made to the family.

FRAZIER, Marjorie Archer received her call to glory on Sunday, November 19, 2006. She was born in Constantine, Michigan on December 6, 1903. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Myrtle Bell Kennedy Archer, and the sister to the deceased brothers, Wallace and Joseph Archer. Her loving husband, Randall Frazier and devoted daughter, Marjorie Ruth Frazier, preceded her in death. She was a constant, active and dedicated member of St. Clements Episcopal Church in Inkster, MI.

She grew up in Western Michigan, received her teacher's certificate from Western Michigan University, and launched her teaching career in 1943 in Inkster public schools. In the early 1950s she earned her master's degree at Wayne State University. She retired from the Wayne-Westland schools in 1971.

Her many and varied community involvements included the Michigan Education Association (MEA), The United Negro College Fund, the YWCA and Friends of the Inkster Library. She was also an active member of Eta Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a benevolent supporter of Western Michigan University, of which she and her husband were alumni. In appreciation for her contributions and support to Western Michigan Univer-

sity she was honored in 2003 by having a prestigious merit scholarship award presented in her name. The Marjorie Frazier Medallion Scholarship is given to the best and brightest high school graduates at the University.

Mrs. Frazier was recognized as an unsung hero in 1989 for her enthusiastic dedication to St. Christopher's House on the east side of Detroit. She was one of 47 people selected as finalists in the "Kool Achiever" program which honors individuals nationwide who are working to improve America's inner-cities. St. Christopher's house is an inner-city mission of the Episcopal Diocese.

She leaves to cherish her memory: nephews and nieces: David E. (Carol) Archer of Elgin, IL and their children, David W. and Eric E. Archer; Flossie Helen Truman of Novi, MI and her children, Kimberly (Jeffery) Holland of Plymouth, MI, Scott (Desiree) Truman of W. Bloomfield, MI and their sons, Alex and Avery Truman; Ed (Joanne) Walton of Arvada, CO and their sons, Charles Walton of Cortland, NY and Jon Walton (Stephanie) of Lafayette, CO and their children Maya and Beres Walton; Sue Walton Hancock and her son Kyle Walton, along with a wealth of life-long friends.

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Slow Roasted Pork Shoulder With Dried Strawberry Chipotle Chutney

Prep time: Approximately 10 minutes
Cook time: 2 1/2 hours
Makes: 12 servings

- 4 to 6 pounds pork shoulder or Boston butt roast
- Salt
- Seasoned pepper blend
- Dried Strawberry Chipotle Chutney**
- 1/2 yellow onion, small diced
- 1/2 cup port wine
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 chipotle pepper, chopped fine
- 1 6-ounce bag dried strawberries

Heavily season roast with salt and pepper blend, rubbing the seasoning into meat. Place in baking pan, put into preheated 350°F oven 2 1/2 hours or until roast reaches an internal temperature of 150°F. Remove from oven and allow to rest about 15 minutes before carving. For chutney, combine yellow onion and port in sauté pan, reduce wine until almost dry over medium heat. Add remaining ingredients and cook over medium low heat 20 minutes. Top warm pork roast slices with chutney and serve. **Tip:** Chutney can also be served over turkey.

Souffle Omelet With Balsamic Strawberries

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 5 minutes
Makes: 2 servings

- 1 1/2 cups (about 8 ounces) fresh California strawberries, stemmed and quartered
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint, optional
- 1 tablespoon aged balsamic vinegar
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar, divided
- 2 large eggs, separated
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 teaspoons butter
- Confectioners' sugar, as needed

In bowl, combine strawberries, mint, vinegar and 1 1/2 teaspoons of granulated sugar; set aside. In small bowl, whisk egg yolks with vanilla and remaining granulated sugar 1 minute or until slightly thickened. Beat egg whites with electric mixer in separate bowl until they form soft peaks. With rubber spatula, fold yolks into whites until no streaks remain. Melt butter in 10-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat. (To make 2 individual omelets, use 6-inch nonstick skillet.) When butter sizzles, add egg mixture, spreading it into an even layer with spatula. Cover pan; reduce heat to low. Cook omelet 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown on bottom and barely set on top. Spoon strawberries down center of omelet; fold omelet in half over filling with spatula. Slide omelet onto plate; dust with confectioners' sugar.

Grilled Strawberries With Black Pepper Ice Cream

Prep time: 45 minutes Cook time: 35 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

- Black Pepper Ice Cream**
- 1 1/2 pints premium vanilla ice cream
- 1 1/2 tablespoons medium ground black pepper
- Port Syrup**
- 1/2 cup ruby port
- 1/4 cup sugar
- Cocoa Wafers**
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch salt
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- Grilled Strawberries**
- 12 fresh rosemary skewers
- 24 fresh California strawberries, stemmed and quartered lengthwise

For Black Pepper Ice Cream, place ice cream in refrigerator about 30 minutes or until slightly softened. Gently stir in pepper. Place in freezer until firm. For Port Syrup, simmer port and sugar in saucepan until reduced to 1/3 cup. Chill. For Cocoa Wafers, cream sugar and butter. Mix in cocoa, vanilla and salt; when smooth, mix in flour just until incorporated. If needed, add up to 2 teaspoons of water to make firm but pliable dough. Form into a flat disc between 2 pieces of plastic wrap; chill. Roll between 2 pieces plastic wrap to 1/4-inch thickness. With sharp knife or cookie cutter, cut into leaf shapes about 3 inches long. Place on parchment-lined sheet pan. Bake in 325°F oven 8 to 10 minutes or just until set; wafers will firm as they cool. Strip leaves from rosemary skewers, leaving 2 to 3 inches of leaves at the top. Thread 4 strawberries halves onto each skewer. Grill skewers, cut sides down, about 4 minutes or until grill marks form. For each serving, place 1/2-cup scoop Black Pepper Ice Cream in chilled glass; spear 2 skewers into ice cream. Spoon 1 tablespoon Port Syrup onto ice cream. Garnish with 2 Cocoa Wafers.



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